targeted for completion by February, 2004. The work is in progress and the project is likely to be completed within its sanctioned cost of Rs.294.70 crores.

Four Laning of Road from Sikandra to Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh

2477. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on four laning of road from Sikandra to Varanasi in the U.P. is not progressing as per the schedule and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the progress made so far on this project; and

(c) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) There are five contract packages in this section. Main reasons for delay are attributed to slow process of tree cutting, shifting of utilities, land acquisition, quarry problems and slow mobilization by the contractors. The section is targeted to be substantially completed by December, 2003.

Construction of Golden Quadrilateral Project under BOT

2478. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have written to the State Governments for upgrading the roads?

(b) if so, whether his Ministry would entertain anyone interested in constructing stretches of the Golden Quadrilateral connecting the four metros or the North-South and East-West corridors under the Build Operate Transfer scheme;